

ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at the Britannia Hotel, Nottingham on 8th November 2018

Present: Chairman – Judith Holland; Treasurer – Tony Holland; Vice Chairman – Geoff Giles; Secretary – Stephen Weall; Editor, The Dhow – Brian Whitehead; Membership Secretary – John Lunn; Merchandising Officer – Malcolm Heron.

1		Exhortation	
2		Welcome Judith Holland welcomed everyone.	
3		Apologies Clive Candlin – Events Officer	
4		Minutes of the Meeting on 2nd June 2018 After adding Geoff Giles to 'Apologies', accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed by Judith Holland.	
5		Matters Arising All covered in the Agenda	
6	1	<p>Chairman</p> <p><u>Dissolution of Branches</u></p> <p><u>Central Scotland</u> Finances closed, laying up of standard to be formalised, Charter to be formally rescinded. Demand return of Union Flag presented to the branch by John Lunn, to replace current National UF. Action: Write to Michael Hesketh</p> <p><u>Teesside</u> Finances closed, seeking location to lay up standard. Action: Ensure procedure is followed</p> <p><u>Exeter</u> Finances closed, charter rescinded, standard laid up at CTCRM.</p>	<p>Stephen Weall</p> <p>Stephen Weall</p>
7	1	<p>Secretary</p> <p><u>Cenotaph 2018</u> 55 of the 66 tickets available to the AVA for the Cenotaph parade applied for by members. Action: Check whether West Yorkshire Branch will want tickets before applying to RBL for 2019</p>	<p>Stephen Weall</p>
	2	<p><u>Field of Remembrance 2018</u> Member Dennis Gimes kindly paid for the association to have a plot at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. Including Dennis, four members had had tickets for the opening by HRH Prince Harry on 8th November, but three did not attend. Other members attended over the weekend, but we do not have a record of their visits. Action: Thank Dennis and review for 2019</p>	<p>Stephen Weall</p>

	<p>3 <u>Constitution</u> Amendments approved at AGM. Too expensive to reprint and post to all members, so existing members will receive loose leaf details of changes to 2012 edition with the November Dhow. Amendments to be incorporated in next print for new members. Action: Arrange loose leaf insert and cost reprint for new members</p> <p>4 <u>Closure of Branches</u> Covered in Chairman's report above.</p>	<p>Stephen Weall Brian Whitehead Tony Holland</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>1 <u>Accounts</u> The Treasurer presented an interim report for the year to 7 November, showing assets of £21,741. The unaudited results for the year to date show a loss of £1,159. The association has to keep expenditure under control, particularly the major cost of the Blackpool Reunion and AGM. The Events Officer will enlarge on this in his report below. <u>Acceptance</u> of the accounts proposed by John Lunn, seconded by Alex Taylor; passed unanimously</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Membership</p> <p>1 <u>Numbers</u> John Lunn reported that we have had 177 new members since the AGM, 141 full & 36 associates. Total paid up membership is 2,201.</p> <p>2 <u>Cards</u> The 2019 membership cards will be pale blue.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Merchandise</p> <p>1 <u>AVA Branded Pens</u> Malcolm showed samples of the ball point pen sourced through the RBL, for sale at £1.25 each. Approved Action: Advertise availability to members and branches, process purchases and sales</p> <p>2 <u>Sales</u> Sales have continued to be buoyant, especially at Blackpool</p>	<p>Malcolm Heron</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>The Dhow Editor</p> <p>1 <u>November Edition</u> Brian Whitehead reported that the November edition is with the printers. It will include loose leaf amendments to the September 2012 Constitution that members may insert.</p> <p>2 <u>Frequency of Publishing</u> There was discussion of the cost and frequency of publishing the Dhow. The conclusions were that, as it is the main communications link with most members and only official notice board for association matters, it was not acceptable to reduce the number of editions per year.</p>	

	<p>In round figures each copy costs £1,200 to print and £1,600 to post, total say £8,400. The Dhow costs about £7 pa per UK member.</p> <p>3 <u>Material</u> Brian said he was short of material; there were suggestions of sources and ways of both encouraging contributions and making the most of them.</p> <p>4 <u>Passwords for Publisher and Email</u> Brian asked for confirmation of the passwords he needed. Action:</p> <p>5 <u>Distribution</u> <u>Stock</u> Alex Taylor reported that most of the surplus stocks had been fed out to branches and deserving bodies like cadets.</p>	Tony Holland
12	<p>Events</p> <p>1 <u>Events Officer</u> In his absence Clive Candlin submitted a written report, copies of which were given to all present. It is precised below.</p> <p>2 <u>Reunion, Gala Dinner and AGM 2019</u> To recognise the changes in members’ wants, the formal part of the event will be from Friday 6th September until after the Drumhead Service on Sunday 8th September. The cost will be £120, including the Gala Dinner. Attending the Gala Dinner only, without accommodation, will cost £30. Extra nights will be £30 per person per night for dinner, bed and breakfast. The AGM will start at 10:30 on 7th September Jimmy Jermain and the Knights Shadows will provide the entertainment at the Gala Dinner</p> <p>3 <u>2020 Twentieth Anniversary of the Association</u> Clive and the committee members are planning a low key (NOT York) celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the association, and would welcome ideas and suggestions from the membership.</p> <p>4 <u>Website Forecast of Events</u> Clive has taken on responsibility for the events section of the AVA website. He has contacted our webmasters and the Branch Secretaries to get the information flowing that will keep our website up to date, credible and a good advertisement.</p>	
13	<p>Vice Chairman, including Media and PR</p> <p>1 <u>Social Media</u> Geoff Giles reported that he was monitoring Facebook about Aden, and that the earlier speculative threat of retrospective legal action against those who had been involved in military action in the 50s and 60s had receded. The site receives 100 hits per day, many form dependants of veterans who served in Aden.</p>	

	2	<u>NMA</u> Geoff Giles has undertaken to take on the task of getting the National Memorial Arboretum staff, records and material to recognise our existence and presence at the NMA.	
14	1	<p>Topics Not on Agenda</p> <p><u>National Standard Bearer</u> John Devenish has accepted the role of NSB, following the resignation of Chris Bridle. The committee appreciates the excellent support we have had from Chris Bridle and wish him well.</p> <p>Action: Letter of appreciation from Chairman Action: Brief new NSB</p>	<p>Judith Holland Stephen Weall</p>
15		<p>Next Meetings of the National Committee Nottingham, 10:30 2nd March, 1st June and 2nd November 2019, AGM – Blackpool, 7th September</p>	
16		The meeting closed at 12:21	